



From Over the Hill

—By Ed W1EJ

Well, we made it through another Hamfest; and despite my joking in January about collapsing onto a griddle filled with pancakes I survived with just a dirty apron. It is nice to still be over the hill instead of under it.

I was a little worried before last month's meeting that we would not have enough volunteers to pull off a successful event. So many jobs to fill and Darrel's list still had a lot of blank spaces, but our members came through. As far as I know, there were no major problems, but we did run out of eggs for the last ten breakfasts. I dealt with the perpetrator of that faux pas personally, no pancakes for him. There was a great crew in the kitchen that made and served over a hundred breakfasts. I was most grateful to have a "Blueberry Placer," a new job title, to put the same number of berries on every pancake (well almost); thank you Rachel (KI6DHG).

It was good to have newer members like Don (KO6DXF), and Carla (W6MOM) helping alongside the old hands doing setup, registration, parking (herding cats), takedown, license testing, and clean up. Because of our hard work the club benefited financially and

socially. I have heard positive comments from non-members and members. Thank you all.

The next big fun event coming up is Field Day, June 22nd and 23rd. Start planning now on how we can make it better, more fun, or different than last year.

The May meeting topic will be about ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) but mostly known as fox hunting.

Lastly, congratulations to Kathy (KM6URP) for passing the Extra test!

NEXT MEETING

Wed, May 15, 2024 at 7:30 PM
Meeting Room of the Sonoma Police
Department, 176 First St W, Sonoma
Topic: **Fox Hunting**

Minutes of – April 17, 2024 Meeting

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS ONLINE: N7PIB (Sanford), K6YD (Kevin), N6LY (Liz), AD6JV (Bill), KE6HID (Andrew), Galaxy Tablet

IN PERSON: W1EJ (Ed), KB6CLV (Simon), KD6FIL (Dave), W8EWL (John), NJ6E (Stan), KF6FZN (Dick), N6TTV (Carl), WD6BOR (Darrel), KA5WSS (Robert), KO6DXF (Don), AI6QJ (Carla)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 1930

Adopt meeting minutes as published in newsletter? Motion made and seconded- Minutes approved as written.

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER- Eileen, KG6QNT- not in attendance

ACS – Moe, KI6JNU- KD6FIL Reporting: There is an ACS level one training scheduled for April 6. Contact KI6MSP if you are interested in taking the training. There is a quarterly radio test on April 8 and a Leadership Meeting online on April 22.

VE LIASON- Elizabeth, N6LY. Absent The Hamfest VE session will be on April 27 at 10 AM. There are currently 4 people signed up. The next VE Session will be at the end of July.

RADIO OFFICER- Mike, WB6TMH- not in attendance

TRUSTEE- Darrel, WD6BOR- The volunteer sign up sheet for the hamfest is posted on the website. DMR Repeater is still offline.

SECRETARY/TREASURER- Dave, KD6FIL- \$3,593.70 in the bank. There are several checks to deposit.

VICE PRESIDENT- VACANT (no call)

PRESIDENT- Ed, W1EJ- We need new people to take the VOMARC Wednesday Night net control.

OLD BUSINESS- Future Meetings? Hamfest is coming up on April 27. Went through the volunteer list and sign up.

NEW BUSINESS: The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA) is listing upcoming public service events that are looking for ham volunteers. May 4 is the Wine Country Century Bike Ride.

SCRA has a Technician License class starting on May 31. Go to

<https://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/#>

There is a Fire and Earthquake Expo at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds on May 19.

<https://www.fireandearthquakeexpo.org/>

MEETING TOPIC- Foxhunting (Byonics Foxhunt transmitters: <https://www.byonics.com/mf>)

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Our last VE testing session was held on April 27, in conjunction with the VOMARC HamFest.

We had 8 candidates show up for testing.

Congratulations to all. 1 new technician, 2 upgrades to General , and 2 upgrades to Extra.

Welcome to our new members. Please say "hi" and introduce yourself if you hear them on the air or see them at a meeting.

KI6NTL-Gretta

KO6CAD-Tom

KO6ABL-William

KM6KGZ-Tom

Scott

Congrats to cuKrrrent member Kathy- KM6URP, who upgraded to Extra.

Shout out and a big Thank you, to all the VEs, who helped.

N7PIB- Sanford

K6WHY-Barbara

W6DDU- Gordon

K6YD-Kevin

Thank you to all the kitchen help, the pancake breakfast was wonderful as usual.

The next test session will be on July 27. Come on out to get your HAM license or to upgrade.

Hamfest Report

—By Darrel WD6BOR



The 2024 VOMARC Hamfest turned out to be a great success. The rain that threatened at the beginning of the week stayed away, the sun shown bright, we had enough cooks for the breakfast, and I didn't buy anything. Can't beat that.

I am always anxious in the weeks leading up to our Hamfest, worrying about whether we will have enough volunteers to do everything needing to be done. If you haven't noticed, VOMARC puts on a very ambitious event. We serve a great breakfast, we staff a club swap table, we have a very popular swap meet out in the parking lot, we conduct a VE exam, we do a fox hunt, we run a portable station and we had the local radio station do a remote broadcast from the event. All that was possible because you stepped up to make it happen.

The Hamfest starts with a Costco shopping trip by Ed W1EJ and me to get the supplies. Next, the antenna tower trailer gets towed to the church. Because the facility was being used Friday, we weren't able to put the supplies in the kitchen or put up the antenna until Saturday morning.

Saturday morning started early with Jim KM6SJG and Don KO6DXF arriving to start putting out tables and chairs for breakfast, registration and

the club swap tables. Ed started getting breakfast organized with Joe N7TSQ, Andrew KE6HID, Robert KA5WSS and Rachael KI6DHG getting things prepped and cooking. Mike, WB6TMH, and Carl, N6TTV, were there to get the club swap tables organized, with Stan, NJ6E, pitching in. Dave, KD6FIL, Don, Carl and Jim were scrambling all over the place getting the antenna up for the portable operation, tables and chairs out, traffic cones out and signs up while the swap vendors started arriving, and generally doing anything that needed doing, including making a couple runs to Safeway for missing supplies. 6 am until breakfast is served at 8 is always a beehive of activity.

Leland, W6GEE, set up the portable station and Carla, AI6QT, started collecting money and registering the vendors in the swap area. John, W8EWL, and Dick, KF6FZM, got the registration table going and started registering guests, handing out door prize tickets and selling breakfasts. We had books donated by K4IA, \$25 and \$50 gift certificates from ARRL, a Baofeng dual band radio and a \$100 gift certificate from Alpha Antennas.

Liz, N6LY, got the VE exam set up with Kevin, K6YD, scrounging small tables wherever he could find them. Sanford, N7PIB, Barb, K6WHY, and Gordon, W6DDU, were all on hand to administer seven exams, with five passes, including our own Kathy, KM6URP, who upgraded to Extra.

Carla, Don, Dave Joe and Rachael all pitched in on second shift for the breakfast. Ed and his crews served 89 full breakfasts and fifteen partial breakfasts after they ran out of eggs. Everyone who came for breakfast went away full and satisfied.

Bob Taylor and Ronnie Joe Grooms set up their remote broadcast for our local radio station, KSVY. With their new antennas, they reach over the hill into Petaluma, Rohnert Park and South Santa Rosa, as well as into Marin. They were on the air for over two hours and interviewed

several of our members, as well as our special guest, ARRL Pacific Division Director Tony Marcin, W7XM, who flew in from his home in Las Vegas just for our Hamfest. Tony was able to tell people about amateur radio during an extensive interview on KSVY.

Mike ran another successful fox hunt, with the hounds wandering the grounds until everything started packing up.

Between the breakfast, the club swap table and the swap space rentals, after all expenses VOMARC put a net of \$1774 into our bank account, making this one of the most successful, both financially and fun-wise, hamfests we've put on. VOMARC has been doing our hamfest since 1979, and without all the old members and new members who pitch in to get things done, it never would happen. From the volunteers who were laser focused on their tasks to the ones who saw what needed doing and did it, this was truly your hamfest. Pat yourselves on the back, because it was another excellent job well done.

Scenes from Hamfest

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

An announcement of last month's Sonoma Hamfest made it onto the [Sonoma Index-Tribune website's front page](#).



John (W8EWL) and Dick (KF6FZM, not pictured) manned the Welcome Wagon. Dave (KD6FIL) also shown here on the right. Here visitors could purchase breakfast

tickets, join the club and register for door prizes.



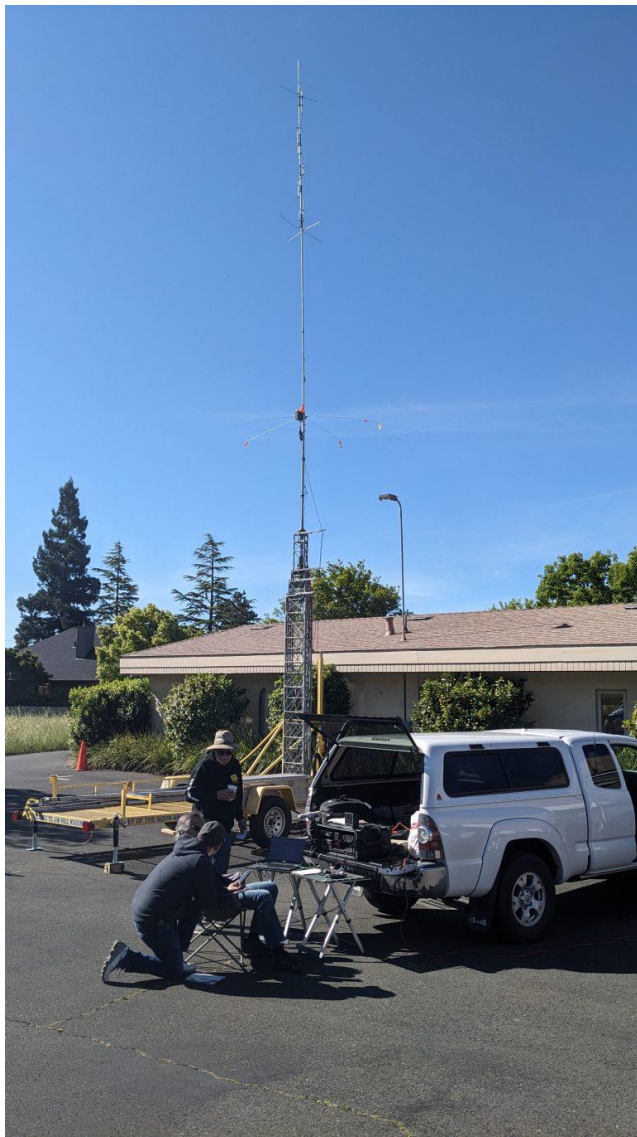
Ed (W1EJ) and Joe (N7TSQ) handled the pancakes and eggs respectively while the rest of the crew served breakfast to our visitors.



Guaranteed to be the youngest attendee at 2024 Sonoma Hamfest!



As always, club members could sell their surplus equipment for free at the club table. Mike (WB6TMH), Carl (N6TTV) and Stan (NJ6E) kept track of members' items and what was sold and for how much.



The club's tower trailer made an appearance. We elected to just erect a vertical on the retracted tower to keep things simple and easy to manage. Leland (W6GEE) kept the station on the air.



The vendor spaces in the parking lot provided a wide range of items from which to choose.



Vendor spaces wrapped around the back of the parking lot at [First Congregational Church](#) on Spain Street, our gracious host.

On The Air

Sanford has worked at least 3,578 parks as part of the [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) program.

Carl (N6TTV) worked the [3G0YA DXpedition](#) to Easter Island on five bands. **Robert (KA5WSS)** made contact on three bands, including one from his home station.

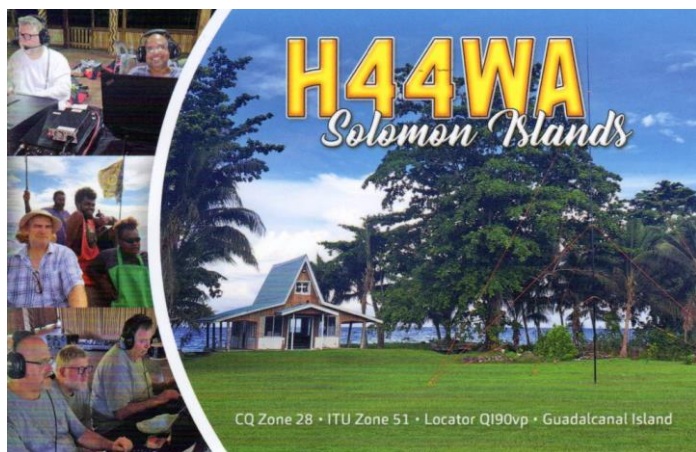
—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

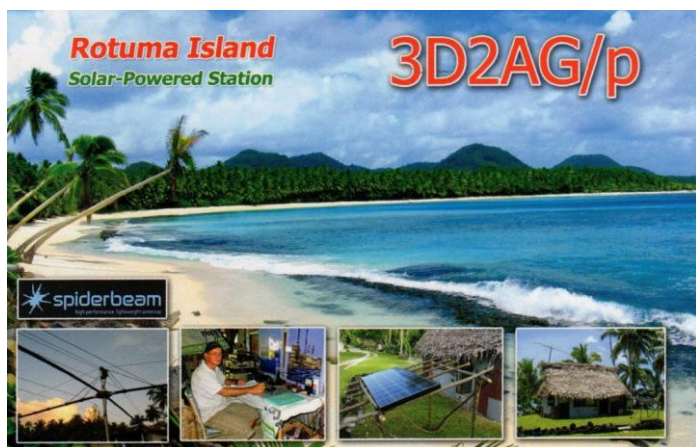
- Maker Faire Bay Area is [calling for presenters and exhibitors](#). The event, which takes place from October 18-20th on Mare Island, would be a fine platform on which to promote Amateur Radio.
- According to information provided by Andrew (KE6HID), Longtime Amateur Radio vendor [MFJ has announced it is ceasing manufacturing](#).

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

QSL Card Inbox



I worked the [H44WA DXpedition](#) to the Solomon Islands on both 10M and 12M. Though I had electronically confirmed contacts with the country before, this physical QSL card confirmed both CW and SSB QSOs.



Antoine (3D2AG) from Fiji operates from Rotuma Island from time to time. It counts as a separate DXCC entity given its distance from the core of the country. I worked him on both CW and FT8 on the 20M, 17M, 15M and 12M bands.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 28 EDITION 5

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – President

– Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

“Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.”—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—Or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	ED	W1EJ
OCTOBER	JOHN	W8EWL
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2024

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.